

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 2/9/87
HB 496

HOUSE BILL 496 – TESTIMONY OF KATHY PALM JORGENSEN
ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE – FEBRUARY 9, 2007

“An act allowing advanced Practice Registered Nurses to complete medical exams
required by traffic laws..”

Madam Chair, members of the House Judiciary Committee. I strongly urge you to vote
yes on House Bill 496.

Advanced practice registered nurses are providing more and more of the primary care in
Montana. These skilled professionals tend to see the elderly, disabled, rural residents and
those with limited funds. APRNs are the primary care providers for increasing numbers
of Montanans.

Our program has a class devoted specifically to assessing older drivers with objective
measurements of abilities needed to drive, as well as assessments for those with physical
limitations and adaptive equipment for these individuals. Nurse practitioners make such
assessments frequently and conscientiously.

We believe that requiring these drivers to seek an examination with a physician will
result in the increased expense of an extra visit to what might be a new health care
provider. This new provider may not know the individual well enough to recognize
minor changes in function which could either result in a capable driver not being given
the medical permission to drive, or perhaps one who shouldn't drive being given
authority to obtain a license

We also believe that requiring such individuals to obtain exams only from a physician
can result in an unnecessary expense and loss of time in traveling from a rural community
to see a physician. Permitting people to see their usual provider can prevent this
unnecessary travel expense and ultimately increases access to quality care for all
Montanans.

A driver license is especially precious in this large state. When seeing their usual
provider, people can be forewarned of their decreasing abilities and aided to seek an
alternate means of transportation. **We believe that House Bill 496 is an important step
in helping to better serve the citizens of our state and we encourage you to give it
your support.**

Thank You for Your Service